

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 MCE-00
ACDA-12 OMB-01 /084 W
-----011957 102101Z /63

R 091258Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8699

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MILI, MASS, UK, KE
SUBJ: UK FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO GOK ARMS REQUEST

REF: (A) LONDON 03798 DTG 091403Z MAR 78 (NOTAL),
(B) NAIROBI 8542 DTG 070946Z JUN 78 (NOTAL)

1. MINSTATE IN FCO TED ROWLANDS DELIVERED PRIME MINISTER
CALLAGHAN'S REPLY TO VP MOI'S REQUEST FOR ARMS MADE DURING
MARCH 6-8 VISIT TO LONDON. DURING JUNE 6-8 VISIT NAIROBI,
ROWLANDS SAW VP MOI, ACTING FONMIN OSOGO (WAIYAKI IN NEW
YORK FOR SSOD), FONMIN KIBAKI AND MOD PERMSEC KIEREINI.
IN ADDITION ARMS OFFER, ROWLANDS MADE PITCH ON RHODESIA
PRIOR MEETING OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND KHARTOUM
SUMMIT.

2. ACCORDING RELIABLE UK HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE, UK HAS
OFFERED TO SELL GOK ADDITIONAL 38 VICKERS MAIN BATTLE TANKS
(THIS IN ADDITION TO 38 UNDER MAENDELEO PLAN), 36 105MM
LIGHT GUNS AND 12 "BLOW PIPE" SAM'S FOR TOTAL PRICE OF UK
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POUNDS 35.73 MILLION (ABOUT US DOLS 65 MILLION). UK WILL
FINANCE UK POUNDS 27 MILLION OF PACKAGE WITH TERMS 25
PERCENT DOWN AND 7 YEARS REPAYMENT PERIOD. WE UNDERSTAND
INTEREST RATE WILL BE 1 PERCENT ABOVE BRITISH BANK RATE.
PACKAGE INCLUDES TRAINING BY VICKERS COMPANY BUT DOES NOT
INCLUDE SPARE PARTS.

3. UK SOURCE SAID MOD PERMSEC KIEREINI WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY MAGNITUDE OF UK OFFER AND WAS SATISFIED WITH FINANCING TERMS AFTER LONDON HAD AGREED TO LENGTHEN PAYMENT PERIOD FROM 5 TO 7 YEARS ON ARTILLERY AND SAM'S.

4. AT SAME TIME, HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE OUTLINED MAIN POINTS OF GREY REPORT (BRIGADIER GREY HEADED UK MILITARY TEAM WHICH VISITED AT SAME TIME OF DOD/STATE SURVEY TEAM) WHICH CONCENTRATED ON LOGISTICS PROBLEMS. REPORT RECOMMENDS AND WE UNDERSTAND GOK HAS ACCEPTED THAT SQUADRON OF UK SAPPERS ARRIVE LATE AUGUST TO COMMENCE BUILDING PROVISIONAL TANK FACILITIES (HANDERS, STORAGE FACILITIES ETC.) AT LANET BASE (NAKURU), BUILD ORDINANCE STORAGE FACILITIES AND DESIGN AND INSTALL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TIGER CAT AA MISSILE SYSTEM INITIALLY TO BE DEPLOYED AT NANYUKI AIR BASE.

5. ACCORDING SAME SOURCE, LATEST UK ARMS OFFER DELIVERED BY ROWLANDS AS WELL AS GREY REPORT AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT FROM UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

6. ROWLANDS LEFT FOR MOGADISCIO MORNING JUNE 8 AND IS SCHEDULED TO SEE SIAD BARRE. ACCORDING SAME HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE, ROWLANDS WILL TELL BARRE UK WILL NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE HIM ARMS BUT IS WILLING DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTAL AID. SAME SOURCE CONFIDED THAT FONMIN DAVID OWENS STICKING WITH THIS POLICY DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS BY TED ROWLANDS AND OTHERS IN FCO TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GET OWEN TO AGREE TO ARMS PROGRAM FOR SOMALIA.

7. DAILY STANDARD EDITORIAL JUNE 8 ENTITLED "WILL ROWLANDS ENLIGHTEN 'EM?" PRAISED ROWLANDS AS ONE WHO "WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY ANY MANNER OF PROPAGANDA WITH WHICH HE MAY BE GREETED IN MOGADISCIO." STANDARD JUNE 9 FRONT-PAGED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CARTER'S JUNE 7 PRESS BRIEFING RE SOMALIA UNDER CAPTION "SOMALIA WINS HUGE U.S. ARMS DEAL AFTER PLEDGE." DESPITE MISLEADING TITLE RE MAGNITUDE, REPORT IS FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF CARTER'S JUNE 7 PRESS BRIEFING (STATE 144583).

8. COMMENT: WE FEEL CERTAIN ROWLANDS TOLD GOK OFFICIALS OF PLAN TO INFORM BARRE THAT UK WILL NOT SUPPLY HIM ARMS. WE ARE EQUALLY CERTAIN GOK WAS DELIGHTED WITH THIS NEWS.

9. WE BELIEVE GOK WILL READILY ACCEPT THIS LATEST UK ARMS PACKAGE. PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL VICKERS TANKS DUBIOUS CHOICE AND GIVEN SPREAD OUT DELIVERY AND FACT UK WILL HAVE TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE WE JUDGE GOK WILL NOT HAVE OPERATIONAL TANK FORCE BEFORE SEVERAL YEARS. INABILITY OF GOK TO PROVIDE TANK INFRASTRUCTURE AGAIN HIGHLIGHTS TOTAL LACK OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN MOD AND MINISTRY OF

WORKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB08699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-0799
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780676/aaaacnqb.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4dd7428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 3798, 78 NAIROBI 8542
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2416702
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO GOK ARMS REQUEST
TAGS: MILI, MASS, UK, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4dd7428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014